

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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POUCHED TO ALL CONSULS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MARR, MPOL

SUBJECT: GENERAL DEXTRAZE'S COMMENTS ON PLANS FOR CANADIAN ARMY

1. IN INTERVIEW PRAISING TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT FOR RECOGNIZING DEFENSE NEEDS AND NOT SUBJECTING ARMY TO BUDGET CUTS, GENRERAL DEXTRAZE DISCUSSED PLANS FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN COMING YEAR. ACCORDING TO DECEMBER 29 GLOBE AND MAIL ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW, DEXTRAZE SAID HIS FORCES WOULD GO NO LOWER THAN 75,000 MEN, AND HE MIGHT ASK FOR MORE PERSONNEL IF HE CANNOT FIND THEM IN RESTRUCTURING STUDIES NOW UNDER WAY.

2. DEXTRAZE MENTIONED FOLLOWING AS AMONG POINTS UNDER STUDY:

A. "SCRUBBING PROCESS" TO FIND UP TO 1500 MORE MEN FROM WITHIN THE FORCES THROUGH SELECTIVE CUTS, SUCH AS 10 PERCENT REDUCTION STAFF ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK.

B. BASE CONSOLIDATION STUDY LEADING TO SHUTDOWN OF STILL UNSPECIFIED BASES IN CANADA.

C. DISSOLUTION OF EDMONTON-BASED CANADIAN AIRBORNE REGIMENT AND TRANSFERRAL OF ITS QUICK-RESPONSE ROLE TO ROYAL
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CANADIAN REGIMENT AT PETAWAWA.

D. CONTINGENCY PLANS TO BOLSTER DURING EMERGENCIES THE
FIGHTING CAPACITY OF 2800-MEMBER ARMY BRIGADE IN EUROPE.

3. DEXTRAZE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT STUDIES REGARDING ABOVE
WOULD BE COMPLETED BY APRIL AND EMPHASIZED THAT HE AND DEFENSE
MINISTER RICHARDSON THINK "100 PERCENT ALIKE" ON DEFENSE MATTERS.
COMMENT. EXTAFF DEFENSE RELATIONS OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF
THAT ABOVE FOUR POINTS UNDER STUDY BUT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT
MENTION OF 75,000 FIGURE, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOC INDICATED TO
NATO THAT FORCES WOULD REMAIN AT 78,000 LEVEL.
JOHNSON

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